

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/597,607

Applicant(s)

RAO ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Charles Chow

2685

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11/24/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 13-21 and 26-42.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 20 June 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

Detailed Action
(Amendment received on 12/3/2004)

Allowable Subject Matter

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Applicant has canceled the rejected claims 1-12, 22-25 in the supplemental amendment, and retained only previously allowed claims 13-21, 26-42 (office action mailed on 10/05/2004).

Claims 13-21, 26-42 are allowable over the prior art of record, the prior arts fail to teach singly, particularly, or in combination, for the subject matter, having beneficial date 12/16/1996 of Continuation-In-Part, for a multifunction communication device including a mobile device or cellular telephone, the device comprising an intelligent keyboard system, the key-board including central portable computer, command and control means for voice and data information; the intelligent keyboard including a touch screen display for displaying selected functional text and graphics, a central server; means for communicating between the server and the mobile device including intelligent keyboard system; the mobile device including the intelligent keyboard system providing text, graphics and data from and to the server, the intelligent keyboard system including a touch screen input; means for configuring the touch screen input in a standard alone manner; means for displaying the selected functionality on the touch screen display; means for actuating the input and output functionality on the touch screen display by touch sensitive means; means for storing one or more types of full or partial function touch screen enabled keyboard menus in a look up table within the mobile device including the intelligent keyboard and/or the central server; and means for enabling the functionality of the keyboard menus; the partial function light enabled keyboard, means for dynamically altering and

configuring a selected individual key or a group of keys for a different and altered character, icon and function; means for dynamically indicating by light the original or altered key functions; means for altered key or a group of keys to light up with one or more colors, characters and icons to indicate an altered keyboard menu; means for reconfiguring the touch screen input and the standard keyboard by audible means, as shown in the independent claims 13, 19, 22, 42. Claim 32 and its dependent claims are allowable because the prior arts fails to teach a mobile device communication system comprising one or more intelligent keyboard, a central server, a local server and a network server; means for enabling the central server as a secure and trusted escrow server; means for maintaining the control of the central server with an independent and mutual trusted third party , as shown in applicant's **Fig. 6, specifications second paragraph in page 8**, the intelligent keyboard has a touch sensitive screen 600 with means for processing user entered signatures to screen 602-1 to 602-3 with different trust level, associated with the escrow agent server C 508, such as in financial instrument or documentation, or settlement process of buying/sale a house, the money, property, a deed put into the custody of a third party, mutually trusted attorney, for the buy/sale settlement agreement, and the money, property, deed is released after the fulfillment of certain conditions. The touch screen keyboard can allow user's signatures from buyer, seller, attorney agent, to be entered for authentication via the signatures on the touch screen.

Additional supporting for claim 32 from applicant's email is also included in below:

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Referring to Fig.6 and page 8 of the specification:

1. A preferred embodiment of the present invention is enabling collaboration between a first device[first party] and a second device [second party] in conjunction with a third device [third party] wherein the third device performs one or more escrow functions to enable collaboration and interaction between one or more devices[parties] having different trust levels. The collaboration and interaction is further enabled in conjunction with one or more touch screen[s] enabled devices, wherein the screens can be viewed separately such as screen 602-1, 602-2 or screen 602-3 or a separate screen 600 that can be viewed interactively.

2. The trusted [wherein the word “trusted” by English usage implies secure] collaboration is enabled in conjunction with a escrow server, wherein the word escrow implies that the escrow agent is trusted by the first device[party] and the second device [party}: therefore the wording “a mutually trusted third party” of the claim 32 is consistent with the English language meaning of the word escrow, escrow agent. A specific case of the claim is a device such as a server, referred to as escrow server C508, performing one or more escrow functions including as an example document, signature and other authentication. The present invention further enables signatures displayed on screen 602 to be placed on a virtual document 604 for interactive verification.

3. The collaboration/interaction between a first device[user] and a second device[user] may be for any purpose or in any form of intelligence, one purpose being document collaboration including obtaining a signature on a document from a first party and a second party.

4. The word escrow according to the dictionary is defined as:

“An item of value, money, or documents deposited with a third party to be delivered upon the fulfillment of a condition. For example, the deposit by a borrower with the lender of funds to pay taxes and insurance premiums when they become due, or the deposit of funds or documents with an attorney or escrow agent to be disbursed upon the closing of a sale of real estate”

The closest patent to Lata et al. (US 4,853,888) teaches programmable multifunction

keyboard 16 with plurality of keys 18, keyboard processor 12, Fig. 1-2, the display of

legend for key and the dynamically changing keyboard configuration from configuration

70 to configuration 72, or further to configuration 74 and storing the modified keyboard

configuration (col. 4, lines 48 to col. 5. lines 24, Fig. 2, Fig. 4-5, Fig. 7, Fig. 17-18), the

detection an actuation control means 46 for monitoring the switch for activation and to

generate identified switch (col. 17, lines 44-48). Lata et al. fail to teach the keyboard for

mobile device or cellular telephone, the intelligent keyboard including central portable computer, and control means for voice and data information, means for communicating between the server and the mobile device; the mobile device including intelligent keyboard system providing text, graphic from and to the server; the means for configuring of a touch screen; means for storing more types of full or partial function touch screen enabled keyboard menus in a look up table within the mobile device including the intelligent keyboard, central server and means for enabling the functionality of the keyboard; the reconfiguring the touch screen input and or a standard keyboard, by audible means; the interpreting and synthesizing means; the means for enabling the central sever as a secure and trusted escrow server and means for collaborating between the mobile device including the intelligent keyboard and central server or a local server or a network server.

Other prior arts in below has been considered, but they fail to teach the above claimed features.

Buisson et al. (US 4,844,637) teaches assigning defined configuration for each key of the keyboard having LCD display (abstract), the LCD display for displaying symbol for each key on the flat panel display (abstract, col. 1, lines 7-12). Buisson et al. fail to teach the mobile device, cellular telephone, having a intelligent keyboard and touch screen; the means for communicating between server and the, mobile device; the function touch screen enabled keyboard menus.

Bowen (US 5,502,460) teaches a keyboard device for laptop computer having a headset earphone 15 connected to the keyboard (abstract, col. 2, line 65 to col. 3, line 3), the

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speaker provides the keyboard operator with the audible verbal message in response to key entry or computer transmitted message (col. 10, lines 5-7). Bowen fails to teach the mobile device having an intelligent keyboard for configuring the touch screen; means for storing more types of full function touch screen enabled keyboard menus in a look up table; means for communicating between the server and the mobile device.

Frager et al. (US 6,268,806) teaches multimedia computer keyboard with high fidelity speakers integrated into a keyboard (abstract, col. 5, lines 20-29). Frager et al. fail to teach the mobile device having an intelligent keyboard for configuring the touch screen; means for storing more types of full function touch screen enabled keyboard menus in a look up table; means for communicating between the server and the mobile device. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee, and to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submission should be clearly labeled "comments on statement of reasons for allowance".

Conclusion

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Charles Chow whose telephone number is (703)-306-5615. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Urban, can be reached at (703)-305-4385. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to: (703) 872-9306 (for Technology Center 2600 only).


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Hand-delivered responses should be brought to 220 South 20th Street, Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03, Arlington, VA 22202 (Customer Window).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

Charles Chow *CC*,

November 24, 2004.


EDWARD F. URBAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600